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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,861	09/16/2003	Kazuhiko Nishizawa	393032040900	3137

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EXAMINER

LEE, GUIYOUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2875

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,861

Applicant(s)

NISHIZAWA, KAZUHIKO

Examiner

Guiyoung Lee

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 0306
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Prelim/Amdt

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the amendment filed 03/27/2006.
2. Claims 1-17 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 03/27/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that Boehme does not disclose the limitation "a light guide... composed of a.. elastic body", examiner does not agree with applicant's argument. Elasticity of material depends on many factors such as property of the material or shapes of the material. For example, a long and thin material is more elastic than a short and thick material. Boehme' light indicator is a relatively long and thin light pipe. Therefore, Boehme' light indicator is composed of a light transmitting elastic body. In response to applicant's argument that Chen does not teach the light guide is **held frictionally** or **by pressure contact** with an insertion hole, Chen reference teaches a plurality of communication light conduct posts 51 are orderly inserted into and protrude from both sides of the light conduct post seat (col. 3, lines 32-35). If the light conductor posts are inserted into and retained in the light conductor post seat, then the posts are obviously held in the light conductor post seats frictionally. In response to applicant's argument that the prior art of record does not teaches mounting an indicator in a electronic device including a step pf cutting a light transmitting elastic body, Howie teaches that "the elongated planar body of clear plastic for composite light pipe 51 is first formed by ... cutting, whichever is most economical (col. 3, lines 46-49).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-6 and 9-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boehme (US 4,504,830).

6. Re claims 1-2 and 9-10: Boehme discloses an electronic device having an indicator, including a panel (10), insertion hole (52) having a contact area, a light guide (20-1) with one end, and a light emitting unit (20-2), and the light guide is a light transmitting elastic body having a uniform section.

Re claims 3 and 11-12: Boehme discloses the length of said light guide is set shorter than a distance from the front surface of said panel to a top portion of said light emitting unit by a clearance for preventing said light guide from abutting against said light emitting unit (See the clearance in Fig. 3).

Re claims 4-6 and 13-16: Boehme discloses a rough surface of the light guide (20-14 in Fig. 3).

Re claim 17: Boehme discloses a cylindrical flange (30-12 in Fig. 2b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-2 and 9-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chen (US 6,685,351 B2).

9. Re claims 1-6 and 9-12: Chen discloses an electronic device having an indicator, including a panel (50), insertion hole (52), a light guide (51) with one end, and a light emitting unit (20), and the light guide is a light transmitting elastic body having a uniform section (51 in Fig. 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Howie, Jr (US 6,499,191 B1).

Re claim 7-8: Chen disclose a method of mounting an indicator in an electronic device comprising forming an insertion hole, placing a lighting emitting unit, and pressing a light guide into the insertion hole (col. 3, lines 32-64). Chen does not disclose a step of cutting a light guide and forming into a light guide chip. However, cutting a light guide and forming into a light guide chip is conventional, and Howie, Jr teaches that the light guide is formed by molding, stamping or cutting, whichever is most economical (col. 3, lines 45-50). It would have been obvious to one

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having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the cutting method of making the light guide chip as Howie, Jr taught because the cutting method of making is the most economical method to form a light guide chip.

Conclusion

12. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Guiyoung Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2374. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on 571-272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LGY



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